



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
CORDELL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR
425 FIFTH AVENUE, NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37247-0701

February 5, 2004

Dear EMS Service Director:

This letter is to announce important developments in the ambulance run reporting system and reporting requirements.

The State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board voted December 10, 2003 to accept as the standard for electronic data collection the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA) Uniform Prehospital Data Set Version 2.0. The EMS Board also adopted an identified subset from this document for minimum reporting data for Tennessee Emergency Medical Services as required in Rule 1200-12-1-.15 (2) (c).

Since the newly adopted data set will require modification to your current electronic collection system, you will be allowed to continue to report in the current state format for the next eleven (11) months (Until January 1, 2005). This will allow you time to make changes with your vendor.

However effective January 1, 2005 the state will only accept data submission through the web site or in the format of the NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Data Set Version 2.0.

Both the State Subset and the NHTSA Uniform Prehospital Data Set Version 2.0 may be obtained through the Tennessee Department of Health, EMS Division Web site. www2.state.tn.us/health/ems. If you have any questions please contact you may contact Donna G. Tidwell. Ms. Tidwell may be contacted by phone, 615-741-2584, or by email, donna.g.tidwell@state.tn.us.

Sincerely

Joseph B. Phillips

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Director, EMS Division



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NHTSA Uniform Pre-Hospital Dataset

As part of the health care system, EMS personnel must interact at the local hospital, regional, state and federal levels through the exchange of information. To facilitate this exchange, EMS systems must have a common methodology of collecting, analyzing and sharing their data with others. To accomplish this, the State of Tennessee EMS Board voted on 10 December 2003 to accept and adopt the NHTSA Uniform Pre-Hospital Dataset (link to nemsis) as a means of standardizing the way Pre-Hospital care information is documented with in the state.

The Uniform Pre-Hospital Dataset is not intended to constrict or restrict the choices for inclusion of data elements in a provider's data base system. Rather, the idea is intended to provide a definition of a well-documented data set, and to provide uniform definitions to aid in the documentation of common data elements.

Finally, the Uniform Pre-Hospital Dataset's purpose is not to pose the entire data set as a mandatory set of data elements for collection and computerization. Rather, the purpose is to provide a common language for a set of data which will contribute to meaningful EMS databases. It is important to note, however that many important questions cannot be answered without supporting data. If an agency chooses to not collect data or collects it in a manner inconsistent with the dataset, then it will be difficult to answer future questions posed by the system or community.

State of Tennessee Dataset

In addition to adopting the NHTSA Uniform Pre-Hospital Dataset, the State of Tennessee EMS Board identified a subset of data (link to excel spreadsheet with list of items) to meet the requirements of 1200-12-1-.15 2c.

Information system designers and service directors should note that the state data set only contains the information, identified by the Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services and approved by the State EMS Board, to provide an State Emergency Medical Services Annual Report. For complete documentation of an EMS event, other data elements must be documented and the State data set is not a model ambulance run record or a trip report. The form and content of run records, trip reports or patient care records must be determined at the local level.

Services can report the required data set by using the State EMS Web site or by submitting an export file from their internal system. To be processed the export file must be in an XML format and pass validation using the State XSD Schema (link to schema)

Again beyond the data elements in the State Data Set, it is important for services to review all of the data elements contained in the NHTSA Uniform Pre-Hospital Dataset and evaluate their usefulness within the local system.